

[15th November 1949]

VI.—DEBATE ON THE DAMAGES BY CYCLONE IN ANDHRA
DISTRICTS—cont.

* SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—“ I was telling you, Sir, that there was one death and some casualties in the struggle for rice. As usual, wisdom dawns rather late on Government officials and the next day or course, they took Police help in the distribution of rice. The prices of rice and other foodstuffs have gone up abnormally and the after-storm prices are nearly double the pre-storm prices. Chillies are selling at Rs. 5-8-0 per viss, tamarind Rs. 1-12-0 per viss, jaggery Rs. 2-4-0 a viss and sugar from Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 a viss. The Hon. the Revenue Minister was telling us yesterday that the Government are taking steps to see that the prices of foodstuffs do not go up. There are stocks available with merchants and they have put up the prices taking advantage of the present position in the districts. I wish to know what the Government have done to see that the stocks available with the merchants are distributed fairly. Could not the Collectors be authorized, if necessary, to seize them and make them available to the people at reasonable prices? The prices are anything between six to eight times the pre-war price and twice the pre-storm price. People are much in distress and they have no money with which to buy their necessities. The cyclone has caused unprecedented havoc. The Government servants of course are trying to do something and it is not tangible. At least, the price of foodstuffs could have been controlled and they should be made available to peasants and labourers. (At this stage, the Deputy President occupied the Chair.) There is some defect in the present machinery; it is not moving as fast as we would wish it to move; it is the same old machinery; the system is the same old system but only it is now called the popular Government. The people who are working the machinery are the same old people with this difference that they are a little more indifferent, a little more callous and extremely corrupt. That is the only difference I find about the Government officials. I would like to suggest to the members of the Cabinet that they tour all these districts to see what the Government officials are doing; I do not want them to go round and see the nature and extent of the havoc caused by the cyclone but to see how the relief measures are being implemented and how the Government servants are taking steps to see that the inflation in the matter of prices of foodstuffs is checked and how supplies are made available to the people. Until now, not one Minister—not one of the popular Ministers—has cared to go round and see these things though they find time to open cinema houses, coffee hotels and all that when such a great calamity has occurred. I do not want to offend anybody but that is on the lips of every being and I think it is my duty to bring it to the notice of the House. They may say that they are busy with the sessions. It is because Government officials are not paying prompt attention to relief measures that I want the Ministers to go to these parts and sit tight over them and see that proper relief measures are undertaken as early as possible. I believe Government will rise to the occasion and see that they do not make vain promises and indefinite promises but act quickly and promptly. The havoc affected four districts and unfortunately there is not one Minister representing those districts in the Cabinet. If there had been one Minister in the Cabinet, perhaps things would have been different.

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I appeal to the Hon. Premier and the Cabinet as a whole to see that proper redress is given to those four districts as early as possible even if it means that the present session is adjourned for the present; we might meet some time later to go through the business. It is our duty to attend to the needs of the people affected so very badly; it is more urgent than trying to regularize Ordinances by means of regular Bills. Even after the advent of Independence, rule by Ordinance has become a routine matter and we can just use the Ordinances for some time longer and there will be nothing lost. I would impress upon the Government that their duty is to stand by their people when their homesteads are gone, their crops damaged and the cattle destroyed by this cyclone. I hope they will at least now realise what it will mean to the ryots if they speak some words of consolation and sympathy. This will go a long way to relieve suffering. Remissions should be very liberally given. We have no seeds for the second crop and it must be brought from somewhere either from the north or Nellore and it must be given before the end of this month. The Agriculture Department should be alert to see that seed is distributed at once either by themselves or through private agencies. Tanks and canals have been damaged and some of them are in Zamindari areas. They must also be repaired immediately. Then, Sir, there should be free distribution of cloth and building materials. Water for second crop should be liberally given to areas affected by cyclone. Such areas should have a preference over others.

“ Then, Sir, there is one other subject. There are several lessees who have lost all their crop. They should be given protection against the lessors. Otherwise the lessors would ask them to measure the lease amount, and demand their pound of flesh. At present there is nothing to protect them against this. In Narasapur taluk the fishermen have lost their boats and nets too. They have all been washed away. There is not even one boat now there. It is an unprecedented cyclone we had there. In times past we have heard of tidal wave submerging Masulipatnam. The recent tidal wave has gone inland in Narasapur, Amalapuram and other coastal places and destroyed the boats and nets of the fishermen. The nets would be costing Rs. 200 to Rs. 300 each. These fishermen have nothing to fall back upon to earn their livelihood and they have no money to purchase either boats or nets. So the money necessary for that should be advanced to them. If Government do not take proper measures at the proper time, I warn them, they would make the country a seed bed for Communists. Already there have been two riots in two or three districts. In a village called Kavali, four miles from Elluru, the poor people gathered together and wanted the ryots to give them rice at the rate of three seers per acre. To this the ryots would not agree. Then they demanded that at least one measure of rice should be sold at twelve-annas from every influential ryot. Somehow or other the ryots would not agree to this also. Then what happened? That night there was a riot, and paddy amounting to forty or fifty bags was taken away. And I hear the Police came on the scene next morning, seized the whole stock and gave the same back to the dispossessed ryots. In

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such things, when the intention of the people is not bad, Government ought to be lenient towards them. There were two or three cases like that, where people went and took the stock of grains forcibly. I would like to bring to the notice of Government that it was only out of pressing need they did so, or rather to satisfy their hunger. So Government should not be very strict in dealing with them.

“Then, Sir, I must tell one other thing. In spite of all this havoc we expect that before the year is over we would be able still to supply to other districts a lakh of tons of rice. So Government should take care to see that proper arrangements are made at proper time. Here I would heartily associate myself with the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition made yesterday, namely, that a very influential committee should be formed to make collections of relief from all over the Province. I appeal to the people of our Province to come forward, and true to their salt, contribute liberally to the relief fund, as suggested by the Leader of the Opposition. I thank you, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to speak on this motion.”

* SRI N. VENKATACHALAMAJI :—“అధ్యక్షా, మా విశాఖపట్నం జిల్లాలో తుపానువల్ల ఎంత నష్టం కలిగిందో మా జిల్లానుంచి వచ్చిన మెంబర్లు నిన్నటి రోజున చెప్పియున్నారు. మా జిల్లాలో ఉన్న 20 తాలూకాలలో పాతపట్నం, పాలకొండ, అనకాపల్లి తాలూకాలు మూడు మాత్రమే surplus తాలూకాలు, మిగతావన్నీ తరుగు తాలూకాలు. జిల్లాలో చాలా భాగము మెట్ట ప్రాంతము. పాతపట్నం తాలూకాలో సకాలంలో వర్షాలులేక పంటలు లేకపోలే మాగాణి ప్రాంతాలు ఈ తుపానువల్ల అపరిమితమైన నష్టం జరిగింది. అనకాపల్లి పట్టణంలో Sub-Treasury లోని సుమారు లక్ష యిరువది ఆరుదువేల రూపాయలు విలవగల కరెన్సీ నోట్లు కొన్ని పాను నల్లమందు ఎక్కడ నున్నవో తెలుసుకోడానికి కూడ వీలు కరుుండా శారదానది సంగమంవల్ల కొట్టుకోపోయినట్లు తెలియవచ్చినది. అనకాపల్లి పట్టణం ఆంత్రా నీటి మయమై పోయింది. అనేక యిండ్లు కూలిపోయినాయి. ఇదే విధముగ ఉత్తర విశాఖ జిల్లాలో ఉన్న శ్రీకాకుళం మొదలగు పట్టణాలన్ని కూడ ముగిసిపోయినాయి. ప్రజలకు, పంటలకు, పశువులకు కలిగిన నష్టం చాలా భున్నవి. వరిపంట పూర్తిగా పాడైపోయింది. అసలే మా జిల్లా deficit జిల్లా. దానికి పాడు ఈ తుపానుతో ఉన్న వరిపంట కాస్త తుడుచుకోపోయింది. ఇదివరలో మా ప్రక్కనన్న తూర్పు గోదావరి జిల్లానుంచి బియ్యము తెప్పించి ప్రభుత్వవారు మాకు సప్లైచేయిస్తూ ఉండే వాళ్ళు. ఇప్పుడు గోదావరి జిల్లాలకూడ పెద్దదెబ్బ తిన్నాయి. ఇటువంటి పరిస్థితులలో వచ్చే సంవత్సరం మా జిల్లాలో కాటకం వచ్చునని కూడ అనుకుంటున్నారు. మా జిల్లాలో ప్రెమియరుగారు ఆంధ్రరాజులై తిరగక పోవడంవల్ల అనుకున్నంత నష్టం రాజాగారికి తెలియక పోవచ్చును.”

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMY RAJA:—“మీ జిల్లాలో అందరు రాజులే.”

SRI N. VENKATACHALAMAJI :—“ఈ ప్రధాన మంత్రిగారి పూర్వులు కూడ రెండు వందల సంవత్సరాల క్రితము మా విశాఖపట్టణము జిల్లావారే. ఈ రెండు

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వందల సంవత్సరముల నుంచి వారి వంశము వారు దక్షిణ దేశం లో ఉంటున్నారు. ఆంధ్ర రాష్ట్రము వచ్చిన తరువాత వారు తిరిగి మా జిల్లాకు వస్తారని ఆనకొంటున్నాను.”

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :— వారు రారు.”

SRI N. VENKATACHALAMAJI :—“ వారు రావాలనే మేము కోరుకొంటాము. ఈ తుపానువల్ల పంటలకే కాకుండా పూరి ఇండ్లకు చాలా దండగ కలిగింది. కూలి చేసుకొనే ప్రజలకు ఇప్పుడు నిలవటానికి నీడలేదు. తుపాను బాధితులకు సహాయంచేసే నిమిత్తం గవ్వ మెంటువారు రూ 75,000 లు సాంక్షి చేసినా మని చెప్పినారు. ఈ రూ 75,000 లు చాలా తక్కువ. ఒక గ్రామంలోనే ఇంత దండగ జరిగి ఉంటుంది. ఏమైనప్పటికీ మీ ప్రజలకు సహాయం చేయడం గవర్న మెంటు వారి ధర్మం. ముఖ్యంగా గవర్న మెంటువారు ఇస్తున్న డబ్బు సరిగ్గా ప్రజలకు అందేటట్లు చూడాలి. లోగడ 1945 సంవత్సరంలో తుపాను వచ్చి ఇండ్లు పోయినవారికి ఒక్కొక్క ఇంటికీ రూ 5 లు చొప్పున sanction చేసినారు. అప్పుడు ఈ రూ 5 లలో రూ 4 మాత్రమే ఒక్కొక్కనికి దక్కింది. మిగతా రూ. 1 విలీజి కరణం, ముససబు ఇతర డివైజులకు రోయింది. ఇప్పుడు కూడా అదేవిధంగా జరిగిందా చూడడం చాల అత్యవసరం. ఇటువంటి అన్యాయాలు జరుగుతుంటే చూడటానికిగాను ఈ డబ్బు పంచివెట్టే ఆఫీసర్లతో కొంత non-officials ను కూడా చేర్చినట్లయితే బాగుంటుందని నా అభిప్రాయం. అప్పుడు పంపకం సక్రమంగా నిజముగా నష్టము కలిగిన వాళ్లకు జరుగుతుంది. ఈ తుపానువల్ల పరిశుభ్రము ఎక్కువ నష్టం కలిగి పంట పాడై పోయింది కాబట్టి ఈ ప్రాంతాలలో procurement లేకుండా చేయడం చాలా ముంచిది. అంతే కాకుండా సరఫరా చేసే ధాన్యం కూడా నిర్ణయించి ఆ ధరల ప్రకారము ప్రజలకు బియ్యం దొరికే విధానము చేయవలసివుంటుంది. అంతే కాకుండా ఎవరైనా స్వంత ఉపయోగార్థము తిండి లేని ఈ రోజులలో 4, 5, 6 నేర్ల కొద్దిపాటి బియ్యాన్ని తీసుకొని పోతుంటే, వాళ్లను అధికారులు పట్టుకొని శిక్షించకుండా చూడడం చాలా అవసరం. ఇటువంటి నియమం చేస్తే పాతిక జనానికి కొద్దిగా తిండి దొరుకుతుంది లేక పోయినట్లయితే వాళ్లు ప్రభుత్వంవారు ఇవ్వదలచే 6 టన్నులలో 8 టన్నుల ration మీద జీవించడం దుర్లభము. కాబట్టి ఎవరైనా వారి స్వంత ఉపయోగార్థము నేనే పాతులవద్దగాని బియ్యం వద్దగాని బియ్యం తెచ్చుకుంటే వాళ్లను శిక్షించ పూనుకోవద్దని నా కోరిక.

“ మా విశ్వాపట్నం జిల్లాలో చాలా భాగం జమీందారీ ప్రాంతమైయున్నది. జమీందారీలను రద్దు చేసిన తరువాత ప్రభుత్వంవారు బొబ్బిలి, జమీనగరిం జమీందారీలను రెండింటిని మాత్రమే స్వాధీనం చేసుకొనినారు. ఇంకా ఆనెక చిన్న జమీందారీలు ఉన్నాయి. వాటిని కూడా వెంటనే స్వాధీనం చేసుకొని ఆ జమీందారీ ప్రాంతాలలో యుండే చెరువులను, కాలువలను కంటనే పురమృతు చేసినట్లయితే, వచ్చే సంవత్సరానికైనా తరులు వ్యవసాయం చేసుకోడానికి వీలుగా ఉంటుందని మనవి చేస్తున్నాను.”

THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—“ The Hon. Minister for Public Works will not make a statement.”

* **THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—**“ Mr. Deputy President, Sir, I would like to make a brief statement explaining the position relating to irrigation works in the cyclone-affected areas. 4 p.m.
I can appreciate the anxiety of the House over the devastating

[Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam] [15th November 1949]
 floods which took a heavy toll of life and property in the Circars. It is desirable, that on such occasions, hon. Members should focus attention on the gravity of the calamity, so that avoidable shortcomings in the administration of departments charged with flood protection and irrigation, are brought to light and corrected. In order to assess how far these departments and the Government are responsible for the recent havoc, hon. Members should examine the map showing the location of our irrigation tanks in the uplands above the Delta. All the tanks in a basin or valley lie interconnected, the surplus of the higher tank supplementing the supply of the lower tank. Some of these basins or valleys contain over 100 tanks, the surplus of the last tank of the basin emptying its surplus into a river or stream. If we get a heavy spell of rain when these tanks are lying empty, no great damage is done, because the water is held up in all these tanks and very little is left over after filling the last tank. But if at a time when all the tanks are full, another heavy spell of rain follows, the entire rain-waters will have to find their way to the sea, because the tanks can hold up no more. If during that period one of the upper tanks breaches, the storage in that tank gushes forth and swells the next lower tank in a few hours, overflows its surplus weirs and bunds and causes breaches in the lower tank. This process is repeated in the succeeding lower tanks also and the flood waters gather size and momentum like an avalanche. This is an unavoidable feature in our minor irrigation systems and we have taken the consequences of this feature during cyclones all through the centuries. In the September floods, we had over 9 inches of rain in the uplands of Krishna and Guntur and all the irrigation tanks were full. Within four weeks of this, came the present cyclone with 13 inches of rain in 36 hours. The tanks were already full and had no reserve capacity. The heavy gale reaching 80 miles per hour, set up wave action which ripped up the bunds and caused breaches in the upper tanks. When once the upper tanks started breaching, it was a question of a few hours before lower tanks breached in large numbers releasing heavy floods. It is not only the rain waters of the present cyclone that came down, but also the waters stored up in the tanks during the earlier September rains.

“ In the taluks of Nuzvid and Tiruvor alone there are about 650 Zamin tanks of which no less than 300 have breached. If these Zamin tanks had been well-maintained ones, perhaps the number of breaches would have been small ; but even well-maintained tanks are not proof against abnormal weather conditions of this kind. Cyclones in the past may not have done this much of damage, but that was because the tanks were not lying so full as on this occasion when the cyclone commenced. In assessing responsibility, hon. Members should not forget that damage of this kind is an unavoidable evil of the system in which our tanks lie one below the other in a chain.

“ I do appreciate the necessity of harnessing up the Budameru in its upper reaches so that the intensity of floods may be moderated. Actually a reservoir has been investigated with a capacity of about 1,500 M.C. feet capable of irrigating about 10,000 acres at a cost.

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on present day rates, of about one crore of Rupees. The difficulty with this project is that it would submerge about 2,400 acres of existing cultivation including valuable wet lands. The bulk of the ayacut will also be covered by the Ramapadasagar, when that project materialises. These were the reasons, and they are indeed good reasons, why we have not taken up this scheme so far. But hon. Members should not gain the impression that if this scheme had been completed, it would have arrested the present floods. The Budameru has a catchment of 700 square miles before it enters the Collair Lake. At the proposed reservoir site it has a catchment of only 200 square miles. Even this proposed reservoir would have been full by the September rains, and so it would have had little value as a flood-moderator in the present cyclone. About 30,000 M.C. feet of water passed through the Budameru during this cyclone. A reservoir of 1,500 M.C. feet could have held up only one-twentieth of that water. Again the Collair Lake has a catchment of 2,000 square miles of which the catchment of Budameru is only one-third and the portion of the catchment above the proposed reservoir only one-twentieth. Therefore, as far as the present floods are concerned, the omission to construct a reservoir on the Budameru could have made little or no difference.

"I have seen an amendment given notice of by the hon. Sri B. Narayanaswami Nayudu suggesting that the Budameru breaches should be forthwith repaired and closed. I can assure him that the Government will do everything in that direction.

"A scheme has been investigated for widening the Upputeru drain at a cost of about Rs. 85 lakhs. A special revenue staff is now examining the revenue aspects of this scheme. This scheme will be of considerable assistance in normal years by relieving submersion on about 10,000 acres of land lying on either side of it. An equal extent of land may also be reclaimed by this scheme and therefore the question of its execution will be considered by the Government as soon as the Board's report is received.

"The Public Works Department and Revenue staff are doing their very best to repair the breach damages to irrigation works. The Additional Chief Engineer visited the area and organized special repair gangs at all places. A special breach-closing division has been constituted and is now engaged on the Ellore canal which has breached in 75 places. One thousand five hundred coolies are working there to-day and it is hoped that the canal will carry water in a day or two. The regular staff that could be gathered up from different parts of the Province, have all been put on special duty in this area. The Samalkot canal which was also heavily breached has been repaired and is now carrying water. Repairs are going on with vigour on all the breached sections of all canals. Fortunately no appreciable damage has been caused to the Krishna anicut and headworks. Instructions have already been issued that preference should be given to areas affected by floods in the matter of permission for second crop cultivation. Repairs to irrigation tanks are also going on side by side, the first effort being to put up ring-bunds over breaches so that sufficient water may be preserved for the season for existing crops. Another special Public Works Department Division is being organized under the Food Commissioner to

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attend to zamin tanks and this division will assist the breach-closing work in zamin areas. I can assure the House that everything possible will be done to repair the damage without avoidable delay and for that purpose the Chief Engineer has already been authorized to incur expenditure in anticipation of Government's sanction."

(At this stage the Hon. President resumed the chair.)

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU :—" Sir, any reader of the Krishna District Manual will know that, in regard to the cyclone in 1864, there was a gentleman who slept soundly in his house and had to be woken up in the morning and shown the water swirling round to realize the havoc caused by the cyclone. That is the story told in the Krishna District Manual. I am afraid that is a charge that must be laid against this Government. When a storm was sweeping certain parts of the Province, the Government were sleeping in Fort St. George. When he was accosted about this and asked to say whether the report of the damage by the storm was correct or not, the Hon. Premier said that it was an exaggeration. Is it an exaggeration? Will the Hon. Minister or the Premier see for himself whether it is an exaggeration or a stark reality? Is he going to be like the gentleman who was sleeping in his bungalow throughout the night of the storm or will he see and satisfy himself that it is not at all in exaggeration but a tragic, stark and naked reality? When the Pressmen interviewed the Hon. Premier he thought it was a polling booth business. But unfortunately it was not a polling booth business to catch votes. It was a case in which the people suffered from the effects of a cyclone. Will the Government at least now say what has happened? That is the first point.

" The second point which I bring to the notice of the House is this. Every Collector's report refers to the damage to the dwelling houses and the people rendered homeless. The newspapers lay emphasis on this. But what is the real damage caused to the country by the destruction of crops and what is the emphasis the Government have laid on this? Newspapers also have not laid emphasis on this. Though three weeks have elapsed since the cyclone, though the Collector's reports have been received, though the Members of the Board of Revenue toured the affected parts, is there any information about the extent of damage to the crops? For instance, the report relating to Guntur District says : " Standing crops damaged so many acres." If you say that there is cold, what is the nature of the cold? Is it bronchitis or pneumonia or what else is it? Do the Government know how many acres of paddy have been destroyed? What is the loss in cultivation? Have they assessed the damage and provided for it? There is no further detail beyond the statement that so many acres of standing crops were damaged. If you go to the Krishna or any other delta district, the first point that has to be considered soon after a cyclone is not the area of crop under water but the extent of water on the crop. There is difference between a crop under water and a crop with water in the field. You can take it that the crop with water on it is practically damaged whereas the crop under water will not be so much damaged. But the crop with water in it is a definite loss

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and must be written off. The real question is not about the number of acres damaged but the extent of submersion. In how many acres has the water gone over the crops and how many villages are affected in that manner? The mere remark that so many acres of crop have been damaged will not do, from, however, exalted a person it may come. Every one knows that as soon as a strong wind blows, the crops will be shaken this side and that, the grains will fall, and there will be damage. Is any information about the extent of damage placed before the House? Has the Hon. Food Minister, who is keen on procurement, got any figures? I know that the crops in certain villages of the Krishna district were submerged by the waters of the Budameru river. The reports about the West Godavari district refer to the loss in the area under Basangi paddy. How long are we to live under statistics of this type? The Basangi crop raised in the Krishna district is practically a total loss and it should be written off. If, in a village of three hundred acres, there is water for six or seven days, what is the loss? May I put this question to the Hon. Minister for Finance, who is here now? The newspapers said that he was in Vijayavada during the storm and that he safely returned to the Government House. The cost of ploughing, manuring and transplanting one acre in the deltaic area comes to one hundred rupees. For three hundred acres, the loss in cost of cultivation due to destruction of crops comes to thirty-thousand rupees. What is the emphasis laid on this loss, whereas much emphasis has been laid on the damage due to the falling of houses, huts and so on?

"I have given notice of an amendment suggesting that the Budameru breaches should be forthwith repaired and closed so as to enable cultivation to be carried on in the year 1950 pending long-term measures to prevent inundation by Budameru waters. The Hon. Minister for Public Works was kind enough to refer to this and say that all possible steps would be taken. But I want to know what report he has got, where it has breached, how many villages the water has submerged, and what is the extent of loss. If he had any information, he would have placed it before the House. The Budameru Reservoir is a long-term measure. It is a Lingadu business. It is like talking of unborn children and saying that I will provide nose screws and ear-rings for them.

"Sir, I want to know whether the Government have got any long-term plans or measures to check the recurring ravages due to periodical floods and cyclone. Is there any mention of them in their report? Absolutely none. That is why I say, this is all Lingadu business. I want to know what are they going to do definitely."

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—"Before that we want to know what is the meaning of Lingadu business, Sir?"

MR. PRESIDENT:—"I should like to say something before we proceed further. I want the co-operation of the House to see that the discussion on this subject is finished to-day. I am prepared

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to allow the House to sit a little late, if necessary, but I want that the Members should close the debate on this motion to-day, because there are hardly two days before us. I therefore request hon. Members to co-operate with me and see that this debate is finished to-day itself, and be as brief as possible in their speeches. I am constrained to make this observation, because I see that the hon. Mr. Narayanaswami Nayudu is still on his legs."

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU :—" Sir, I was just referring to the loss sustained in every village in the Andhra district on account of the floods in the Budameru river and was saying that the statement of the Government does not at all correctly show the extent of the damages caused, nor the plans they have for the immediate future. That is why I want a more detailed report in the matter. Let a report be called for from the Collector of the district in respect of the villages into which the Budameru waters had entered and destroyed the crops. We have seen with our own eyes the havoc caused by the floods and cyclone in these villages. What has Mr. Kala Venkata Rao, who has actually toured these districts, said about it? His statement has appeared in the papers. What has the Board of Revenue said about it? All have admitted that the villain of the piece is the Budameru and that is responsible for all these ravages. But, on the other hand, the Hon. Minister for Public Works, in his statement has said that the omission to construct a reservoir on the Budameru could not have made any difference and therefore that is not the thing we want to do. But we say that the Budameru is the villain and we want to know how are you going to book this villain. What is the answer of the Public Works Minister? This is a cyclone damage, and damage due to floods. This is not happening to-day only, but this has been happening periodically. We cannot take this lying down. That is why I have asked through my amendment, 'Never mind about what long-term measures you are going to take in respect of the Budameru Reservoir, but what is it that you are going to do immediately to rehabilitate the people who are affected by the present floods, and what steps are you going to take to enable them to cultivate their second crop at once?' We know that these lands had been inundated during the floods of the year 1945 and again now, in 1949 the same thing has happened. Will the Government call for a report from all the villages which have suffered by the Budameru floods as to what they have done to alleviate the distress among the people and what action they have taken to close and repair the breaches? That is why, Sir, I have put it in the first sub-clause of my amendment, which says—

'(a) That Budameru breaches be forthwith repaired and closed so as to enable cultivation to be carried on for the year 1950 pending long-term measures to prevent inundation by Budameru waters.'

"I say, Sir, it is not only a sin against the people affected, but a sin against God to take no steps earlier to put up a reservoir and prevent inundation by its waters, in spite of the fact that this has been happening periodically and in spite of the fact that we have been urging for the construction of a reservoir even from 1947.

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"Then, Sir, let me read sub-clause (b) of my amendment. It says—

'that a Crop Insurance State-aided Corporation be forthwith started to insure crops against inundation and pest losses and the funds thereof be partially recovered by a compulsory levy of further sales-tax on all stock-piles and stocks of rice held by the Government of Madras.'

"Sir, I want that a compulsory levy of further sales-tax should be made on the stock-piles and stocks of rice held by the Government of Madras. Sir, I am sorry that the Hon. Finance Minister is not here. I have seen in the papers that Member after Member in the other House got up and urged that the sales-tax should not fall on the consumer. Therefore it is, that I have purposely put down here that the funds of the Crop Insurance Corporation be partially recovered by a compulsory levy of further sales-tax on all stock-piles and stocks of rice held by the Government, in order to see that the cost of living index does not go up. I do not know, Sir, how much stock is there in the Government stock-pile, but I want that some advance should be made to those persons by the State-aided Finance Corporation or from State funds, as compensation for the loss they have suffered. I know that there is an Industrial Finance Corporation, which has come about very late, but I do not know what it has been doing now. Is it not incumbent upon the Government similarly to start a crop insurance corporation and see that the ryots who raised food-crops do not suffer any loss and that they are compensated for any loss suffered by them on account of pests, floods, cyclone and other periodical ravages? Just as this Industrial Finance Corporation is set up to help the industrialists with finance in the case of loss, so also, the agriculturists who cultivate lands and produce food for people in the Province, should be helped and financed by the State-aided crop insurance corporation, if they suffer loss by any of these causes. Session after session, during all these three years, we have been having food debates, and everybody has been complaining about the high procurement prices which the Government have been paying for the food-grains, and everybody has been urging that the Government should procure at the lowest possible cost, but nobody ever thought of the possible ravages and losses that were likely to be suffered by the ryots by reason of floods and cyclone. Of course, during all these years, the yield has been good and you have been taking away all their surplus food-grains, paying as little as possible. Now what does Malabar say to the losses that the Andhra has suffered? What does Coimbatore say, which wants about 90,000 tons of rice every year? What does the Government of Travancore say? What do the other deficit districts, which depend on the Andhra districts for their food, say in this great calamity which has befallen the Circars and the Andhra deltas? That is why, Sir, I say in the second clause of my resolution that on the stock-piles of food-grains at the hands of the Government should be compulsorily levied a sales-tax to be borne by the deficit districts. They should come forward and say, 'No doubt you are a good man; you have done well all these years and you have given us food at a reasonable price; now that you are in distress, we shall pay something more by way of sales-tax just to compensate the loss you have sustained'. That should be the attitude of the deficit districts now towards the Deltas.

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"Then, Sir, let me come to sub-clause (c) of my amendment. It says—

'that all ryots whose holdings were submerged with water flowing over the head of the paddy crop for at least two days be given interest-free loans at the rate of Rs. 100 per acre repayable in yearly instalments by not less than five years and other ryots whose holdings were partially submerged be given remission of rent or revenue.'

"Sir, this is only consequential upon what I have said in clause (b). Now all the crops are going to be lost and the least that you can do is to rehabilitate them by giving them interest-free loans at the rate of Rs. 100 per acre, recoverable in yearly instalments within a certain number of years.

"Then, Sir, clause (d) of my amendment says—

'that there be started at once a State-aided Flood Damage Corporation for dwellings or cattle sheds or grain godowns to which shall be contributed in the inception a compulsory levy of costs per house on all tiled or upstairs houses worth more than five thousand rupees in the city municipalities and panchayats.'

"My idea in making this suggestion is this. Even to-day you are only looking after the dwelling houses in the cities and towns, but you do not bestow any attention towards rural housing. I have been raising this point in almost every debate on housing in this House, but no answer has been given to that. Now, what does my Hon. Friend the Minister for Housing, Mr. Sanjeeva Reddi, say in regard to the losses that these poor villagers have suffered by reason of these floods and cyclone? Not a single pie has been spent hitherto on rural housing schemes, and people in rural areas are suffering equally, if not greater, than people in cities and towns. Lakhs and lakhs of rupees are being spent in urban areas for improvement of drainages, etc., while rural areas are left uncared for. Now you have a spectacle of what has happened in the villages.

"Again, Sir, I have been urging several times in this House for the starting of a compulsory cattle insurance scheme in this Province, the necessity for which is well known to all. I do not know whether there is any such scheme in vogue in other Provinces, but I am told by the Government that they do not know anything about it. Now, Sir, thousands and thousands of cattle had been washed away by these floods and many huts and houses had been destroyed, but there is no scheme to rehabilitate them or insure them against such losses. That is why I have suggested in my resolution that you should levy a compulsory tax on tiled and upstairs houses worth more than Rs. 5,000 in municipal and urban areas and divert the tax so collected for the purpose of rehabilitating people in the rural areas, who have lost their houses and cattle on account of the cyclone and floods. My submission is that townsmen must compensate villagers, who suffer by such calamities.

"Then, Sir, I come to the last portion of my amendment. Clause (e) of my amendment says—

'that procurement or export of paddy or rice from the Circars be immediately stopped till the next crop.'

"Sir, hitherto the Government have been taking away all the surplus rice and paddy from these districts. Now they have not got

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enough stocks for themselves. These floods have destroyed their crops and so till the next harvest, there will be nothing for them to eat and they will have to get on with their little stocks on hands. Now, what do we find in the streets of Vijayavada, or Masulipatnam or other big towns? Queues of people are standing in front of shops for purchasing rice. Therefore we should see that people are not allowed to starve by procuring the rice compulsorily from those districts and transporting it to other districts for distribution, and add to their tragedy. Therefore, Sir, I have said, let us stop forthwith this compulsory procurement business. Let us say, full stop to all procurement hereafter."

* SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—"Mr. President, Sir, with depressed thoughts and oppressed emotions, I stand here to offer a few remarks on the havoc that has been caused by the recent floods and cyclone in our districts in the Andhra Desa, although they may be very unpleasant to members of the Treasury Benches. I am sorry to state that the people's Government and a Government in whom the electorate has reposed so much confidence could not discharge the trust properly during this hour of crisis. The statement made by the Hon. Minister for Revenue as regards the relief that was given and that would be given to the people affected is really very vague. There is no concrete proposal mentioned in it. It is stated that a sum of Rs. 5 to 10 will be paid to those who have lost their huts. I want to tell him, Sir, that previous to the floods, bamboo poles were selling at Re. 1-4-0 each. For a hundred poles the cost was Rs. 125 before. But now after the cyclone, the prices of building materials have been doubled and to reconstruct one hut, a person will require at least Rs. 100. The Government say that they are going to pay only Rs. 5 to 10 for those whose huts and houses have been destroyed. How will that be sufficient? It is also stated in the statement that building materials have been supplied to those who have lost their houses. But there is nothing stated about what sort of housing materials have been supplied and how much has been supplied and whether it is possible for them to rebuild their houses by means of these materials.

"Sir, as far as the district of West Godavari is concerned, can say without fear of contradiction, that nothing in that direct has been done. I started from my place on the 8th of this m and I know that nothing was done. What amount was supplied by the Revenue department or any other department in the Godavari district in supplying bamboos and other building for reconstructing the houses which had been destroyed has been stated, so as to give us an idea of the rehabilitative work by the Government. Of course, the Hon. Minister has said that he had given Rs. 40,000 to West Godavari work. When I was in Eluru on the 8th instant, I was not supplied properly. I started for Madras on the 10th, and found that many of the people had no rice for days. I was then held presided over by the Collector, and at the meeting and I told the Collector that I had been there for 10 days together and also about the sort of r"

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also that the people in the neighbouring villages were suffering from want of rice and that they could not get it even in the black-market. But the Collector contradicted it and said that there were large stocks of rice in West Godavari and that they were enough to feed all the people. I do not know what data he had with him or with what authority he had said like that. But I know that people were fasting since the cyclone started. We cannot have an idea of the enormous amount of suffering that people had been put to, in towns as well as in the village parts.

4-30
p.m.

"Even after the cyclone, this is the fate of the people there from where much of the rice was exported to other parts of this Province. I know why we were so badly treated. I know not even one Minister except one Hon. Minister, came to our place. Perhaps this sort of interest on the part of our Ministers was entirely responsible for the utter negligence and the bad treatment that was given to us by the Government as a whole."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" May I know if the hon. Member does not claim others as his Ministers? "

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" I do claim, Sir; I do belong to that party, and I am one of those people."

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA :—" He means Andhra Ministers."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member said ' My Ministers '. That is why I asked him ' do you not claim others as your Ministers? ' "

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" I do claim, Sir. That is why I already told these things plainly."

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" Is not Mr. Sitarama Reddi an Andhra Minister, Sir? "

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" Sir, the statements made by the Hon. Minister for Revenue and the Hon. Minister for Public Works, have, on all hands, accepted that the damage was very heavy and people have suffered heavily, and that something must be done to relieve them of their difficulties. No doubt it is too late now. Now at least they have realized that they have to do something for these three districts."

చలి వడికించు కాలమున చక్కని భాషని ఎందరైనా ఉ
జ్వలమున వేసవి- సరదు భాషరీతేజము మెచ్చనే రుదన్

"One Andhra poet has written that ' We praise the Sun in the winter days but in summer we cannot appreciate the Sun '. Likewise these districts were praised, cajoled and were forced to export all the rice they had got. Now when there is no rice, not a bag of rice has been imported into these districts, and the rice that is lying in these districts was not properly distributed. I am not here to blame anybody or any officer or even our own non-officials. All that the Revenue department and the Government

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could do was that they began forming non-official committees to collect funds and distribute those funds after the cyclone was over. This is just like trying to dig a well while the house is on fire. How long will these committees take to collect funds, and how much time will it take to distribute the funds? It is already three weeks since the cyclone overtook these places. People were thrown into the open air, in this winter season. They have no rice to eat and no roof to sit under. Still, we are thinking of measures of forming non-official committees to collect funds. Is this the way, I ask? What has become of the Famine Relief Fund? What has become of the other funds? Cannot this Government, a huge and big Government, command funds to give relief to these distressed people in times of great need with grace? Those people who have fed the whole Province, are now suffering for rice. As my hon. friend Mr. Narayanaswami Naidu said, they are still working on the side of procurement. I am told that one officer told our Collector 'you know that your district has still to export something'. If that is a fact, I do not know where we are. How are we to live in those districts. We must all come away from those districts to districts which are declared already as deficit districts so that we may have our own rice. There is nothing for procurement in those districts. I request the Food Minister to re-form his department and to do all that is needful, and give us at least that rice which is lying there by declaring West Godavari and Krishna districts as deficit areas. Because, the report circulated here says that five lakhs and twenty-five thousand acres of paddy land, have been affected. Perhaps that is the report of the District Collector. He himself has reported that almost all the lands under paddy cultivation are affected—some portion 50 per cent, some 35 per cent and some others cent per cent. So, Sir, wherefrom are we to get rice? How can the Government procure rice hereafter from these places? What I want the Government to do is to see that whatever rice is available there, is not exported to other places. Whether there is rice or not, is a question to be considered for the future. First please see that some rice is sent there and that the poor people and every one of us are fed properly. Because, though we had with us some rice by our efforts, we sold it away as honest men at the Government rate. And these people to-day have to suffer. Some big people have got some bags of rice with them in reserve. I would not advise them to release those reserves, because they will be helpless later. The Government which ought to have taken care of these poor people from whom they have procured all the rice already, have not done so. What I would like the Government to do is to declare forthwith that our districts are deficit areas. Some quantity of rice should be sent to those places forthwith to feed the poor people.

"As far as their houses and cattle are concerned, they should be given at least Rs. 100 each. Fifty bamboo sticks are necessary to erect a roundabout hut. That means 50×1-4-0. Then there is the palmyra leaf. This report says that palmyra leaves are being supplied." May I ask, where is it supplied, Sir? Almost all trees

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have gone down. There is no single palmyra leaf. There is no palmyra tree either. Even then how long will it take to supply the palmyra leaves. How long will it take to send the palmyra leaves there and distribute them to all the places. How long are the people to be in distress, for want of these palmyra leaves and bamboo sticks. I should like to advise the Government that they should issue an ordinance as far as building materials are concerned empowering the District Collectors to seize all the building materials from the depots and distribute them to the people at the pre-cyclone price."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"If an ordinance is to be passed we must all get out; we are not to be in session. Why not pass a Bill?"

* SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU:—"An ordinance by the Government should be passed forthwith. I request the Government to prorogue the session. That is what I mean. I know there are legal difficulties and constitutional difficulties if an ordinance is to be passed without proroguing the session. I should prefer . . ."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"I am sure the Government can do it even by executive orders. There is no need for an ordinance."

* SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU:—"Then we will be very glad. It is far better to supply a bamboo stick to the poor man who is distressed than our meeting and talking here, and the Government going on hearing us without caring to comply with our requests."

"Sir, I would like to invite the attention of the Hon. Premier to one fact, that is, as far as West Godavari is concerned, the only officer whom we can praise with pride is one Mr. Rayappa, Revenue Divisional Officer, Narsapur. Everybody from that division tell me, and I have also enquired and verified, that he did immense service to the people in time of need and he is the only man who has saved the prestige of the Congress and the Government. To my astonishment and to the astonishment of every one in the division, we find that he is transferred. Is it a punishment all his services? What for was he transferred?"

MR. PRESIDENT:—"Perhaps he is required to do some work somewhere else!"

* SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU:—"Is this the time to transfer him, Sir? He has to do immense work in that district. I think the Hon. Premier will consider this aspect. I invite attention of the Hon. Minister for Public Works to the Budameru and Upputeru and the Kollair lake. I am told that the old and experienced ryots in the district that all these floods are due to the construction of the Gudivada-Bhimavaram railway. This line obstructs the floods from going into the sea. There are outlets arranged for taking the floods to the sea, but the

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sufficient.. (An Hon. Member: Is the railway line to be dismantled.) I have been told by the old ryots of the place who have suffered by the floods that the railway line obstructs the floods from going into the sea. I should like to request the Hon. Minister for Public Works to investigate this matter and see whether anything better cannot be done for the floods to reach the sea easily without affecting the crop."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"I thought the trouble was that sea water was coming in land."

* SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU:—"As far as Narsapur taluk is concerned the tidal wave has come. We cannot do anything for it, because the tidal wave is due to the will of the Almighty. Perhaps I should mention here that all the sins of the King will transform into difficulties of the people. That is the old saying. I do not know whether the sins of the people of the districts or the sins of the Government are responsible. Is the King responsible for the distress of the people or his subjects are responsible? However, I am not concerned with this. I have seen with my eyes people groaning in distress and going about from house to house begging. Even very big families and middle class people have been greatly groaning. In Eluru proper . . ."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"I would request the hon. Member to close his speech soon."

* SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU:—"I will conclude soon, Sir. Relief of Rs. 40,000 to our district, I am sorry to tell you, is not sufficient even for one taluk. As Mr. Narayanaswami Naidu has stated, it is humanly impossible to calculate in terms of figures the damage that was caused in our district to the crops. So, Sir, not less than Rs. 10 crores will be necessary. Where are the funds to come from? I can understand the difficulty of the Government. But that is no reason to be miserly. The Government should not be negligent. They should not be callous towards these distressed people. Let them be generous and spend as much as they can, and win the confidence of the people. Let them re-establish the prestige of our Great Rishi Mahatma Gandhi and the Congress, whom we represent here in this Province. Sir, I have already requested Government to see that at least Rs. 100 each is given to people who have been made homeless. As far as ryots who have lost their cattle and agricultural implements are concerned, the Hon. the Revenue Minister has told us that Rs. 500 interest free takkavi loans will be given. I congratulate him on this decision. I only request him to see that the amount is increased to Rs. 1,000. Rs. 500 is not at all sufficient. One pair of bullocks costs not less than Rs. 500. How can the poor ryot whose lands have been greatly affected bring them back into cultivation with Rs. 500. He requires much more for reclamation, manure and so on. Therefore it is I request that the amount should be increased to Rs. 1,000.

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“As regards land revenue remission, the Hon. the Revenue Minister has stated that he will consider the question favourably. I request him to commit himself to what extent he is going to give remissions, is it 6 annas crop, or 8 annas crop, or 10 annas or 12 annas crop? Anybody can come along with me to the villages, and I will show him and convince him how the estimates sent to Government are wrong, baseless and have been made on some wrong calculation by the karnams or the tahsildar.”

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MR. PRESIDENT :—“Has the Hon. Minister received any estimates for remission? Not yet, I think.”

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—“The estimates will be prepared by the karnam. The karnam says that 4 annas crop is lost or 8 annas crop is lost. Then the tahsildar and . . .”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“I would like to impress upon the hon. Member that the reports will come later on and they would be considered by the Revenue Minister.”

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—“I submit that the Hon. Minister can say one thing.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“There is a point in discussing things in their proper perspective. When the Government say that after the reports are received the full facts will be considered, why do you think that they are not going to give the full remission that is required? You are unnecessarily wasting the time of the House.”

DR. V. K. JOHN :—“He has no confidence in the Government, Sir.”

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—“I humbly submit that the Government can easily say that they are prepared to give remission to a certain extent.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“How can they say now when they have no reports? Even you cannot say what is the estimate of the damage.”

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—“They can easily say, Sir, that they are going to give 10 annas' or 8 annas' remission.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“I am sorry the hon. Member does not catch the point. Perhaps it may be that the situation requires a remission of 12 annas or 15 annas. Why should the Government grant half a rupee alone?”

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—“My submission is . . .”

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—“I would draw the hon. Member's attention to the statement made—

‘It is realized that remission on a very liberal scale will be necessary in the districts affected by the floods and cyclone. As

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soon as detailed proposals are received from the affected areas, the question of granting land revenue remission will be taken up.

That is what I said. In addition to that, I may inform the hon. Member that with regard to the suggestion made that remission should also be granted to coconut gardens and other garden crops and for lanka lands which suffered damage, even that question is being examined. That is what I said anticipating this kind of discussion."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" He does not believe the statement."

* SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" I am glad that the Revenue Minister has re-assured us that he would carefully consider the question of remissions. I hope when figures are available, they would grant remission which would go to a great extent to help the ryots in their distress.

" One more thing, Sir. We expected that the Food Commissioner of the Government of India, when he was here during the cyclone, would be advised by the Government of Madras to visit the affected areas. Certainly a word from him would have given us some relief and it is an immense surprise to us that he has not said even a word and he has gone away without even thinking of the distress of the cyclone-affected people. But when even our own Ministers would not find their way to visit these affected places, how can we expect the Food Commissioner of the Government of India to be kind enough to visit the whole area? I only want to say that even against money, a word of consolation in time of distress would go a long way in alleviating our misery. The reports published in the newspapers are not at all exaggerated. The sufferings of the people are greater than what are published in them. Perhaps they are not published due to paper scarcity and many other difficulties. So, I would like that an impartial non-official committee should be constituted to visit these districts with a view to collect statistics as to how far the crops have been damaged, how far the people have suffered and how the food position is in the districts so that the Government may act correctly and wisely in time with grace."

* DR. A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" Mr. President, I had not intended to speak, but a few observations that had been made by the hon. Members compelled me to take a small portion of the time of the House. I had the opportunity almost at the conclusion of the cyclone to go to Calcutta; it was no doubt by air, but even so I could see sheets of water over tracts where green fields used to be seen and I could very well imagine the great havoc that might have been caused in those districts. This is a national disaster and we must take note of it as a 'national disaster' and not as a disaster that occurred in one particular part of the country to which other parts could be indifferent or callous. I do not think there is any Member of this House who does not realize the sufferings of the people of these districts, particularly the poorer classes and the poor middle

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class who have none to champion their cause. While I really appreciate these facts, I do feel that there should be a method by which we should approach the whole problem; otherwise, it will really be that those who shout best will get the best of it and those who have no opportunity to express their views or make proper representations will suffer as they always did.

“ Taking the damage that has been caused by this storm, I should like to state first of all the damage to life, and unfortunately we could do nothing in the matter beyond saying that their souls must rest in peace. But there may be occasional cases where the only earning member who could support the family has lost his life. I should like such particular instances to be investigated, not from the point of view of a large concourse of people, but individual considerations should be given to some of the hardest cases which to my knowledge have occurred in the different districts.

“ The loss of cattle has been enormous. We know particularly in an agrarian country so much accustomed to agricultural labour what this loss of cattle means. We have had several instances where houses have collapsed in cities and mud walls,—the so-called houses—in the rural areas. Crops have been damaged; breaches of tanks have occurred; communications have been very severely uprooted; all these are facts. But I say the problem requires to be considered from two aspects of view, the immediate aspect and the somewhat remote aspect. Even the immediate aspect can be classified as the more urgent and the less urgent. Among the more urgent problems, I would first of all put the question of food supply. There is no question whatsoever that this problem exists. At present owing to various causes, either because the surplus districts have become more or less deficit districts or because even in those districts where some amount of good material was available, materials of transport have been seriously curtailed, there is undoubtedly the problem of food supply. That is a matter on which immediate and co-ordinated action is necessary by all the departments concerned. The Food Department should take steps for the procurement of supplies and the Transport Department for the transport of food. I am surprised that in a matter like this the Central Government should not have come to the assistance of the Provincial Government and made enquiries as to the extent of help they could possibly render, when damage on such a large scale has occurred.

“ The next thing is of course the question of providing clothes. Every man requires food and shelter. If it were any other country, I would have said that he requires cloth. But unfortunately in this country even the clothes have sometimes to be dispensed with and people just confine themselves to the very rudimentary necessities for covering Nature's garb. That apart, in regard to houses also immediate shelter ought to be found to those people who unfortunately have got to wander in the sun with no shirt to cover them. These are the immediate problems and there can be no two opinions about them.

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"The less urgent problems are those to which several hon. Members have referred—the question of damages to crops. This, I feel, is a matter that ought to be thoroughly investigated, and not only remission should be granted but also such methods as are calculated to bring crop production at the earliest possible stage should be taken up. This must be the concern of the Food Ministry both in the Centre and in the Provinces. The Revenue Minister may be able to grant remissions. I would take it that the remissions are granted at 12 annas, or whatever may be the rate,—I hope will be on some scientific basis and not exactly depending upon the volume of opinion pointedly expressed to the Ministers while they go on tour. While such opinion may be taken into consideration, I do feel that there is a necessity for issuing a warning that the Ministers ought to take scientific note of the various shades of crop damages that have occurred and give due and necessary remission on a particular scientific basis. Otherwise, once again the charge will be levelled against the Government that they have favoured this or that influential person.

"In the last two days when I was listening during question time, I must confess to a feeling of utmost humiliation that many questions, many supplementary questions, have been asked in this House which go, in my opinion, to seriously damage the reputation of the Government. The Members ask questions not, in my opinion at any rate, giving sufficient guarantee for the accuracy of the questions put. That apart, the reason why I say this is that it must not be a question of non-official members gathering together and giving their views. Of course for the time being I am a non-official Member of the House. But the departments concerned should make a detailed study and in these things energetic steps should be taken.

"While I, therefore, feel that these measures ought to be adopted immediately for promoting ameliorative measures, I still think that the chief problem that faces us has not been faced by this House—I will not say about the other House. Is the present cyclone about which we are discussing the first of its kind? During the last 25 years, at least half a dozen cyclones of a virulent nature have occurred; this may be the worst, I concede. I remember well in 1928 I was travelling by the Calcutta Mail and it took 24 hours for me to go to Nellore. And what did I find? Nellore was naked to the bones. Similarly a cyclonic storm took place in South Arcot, round about Tiruchirappalli and in Tirunelveli also. This is becoming more or less a chronic occurrence. What is it that we are going to do? If this disaster does not enable us to think of a more substantial method of giving relief and of being prepared for such havocs, then we would not have learnt a lesson we ought to, from these acts of God. Therefore, I come from the urgent steps to the somewhat remote steps. I do want that the Government should now, on the basis of the havoc that has been caused, think of permanent measures for alleviating similar situations wherever they may occur, in whatever part of the Presidency. I do not suppose that scientific research has yet come to the position when we can anticipate cyclonic disasters long

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before they occur. Therefore, we ought to take note of this particular situation and prepare ourselves, and my advice is that there should be an Expert Committee formed to consider ways and means by which immediate relief can be given wherever flood, famine, pestilence or other havoc is caused.

“ I am glad that my hon. Friend Mr. Narayanaswami Naidu, has given in his amendment some useful suggestions—the question of insurance of food-crops, the question of providing for the construction of houses on a co-operative basis, the question of building up a fund for famine relief, etc. I believe I am correct when I say that there is already a fund, but it is not commensurate with the needs of the disasters that we met with in recent years. That fund ought to be augmented every year by placing half to one crore of rupees so that we may ultimately have a fund of ten crores of rupees or thereabouts and from that fund relief could be given in such circumstances. While the poor man should be given every assistance, the middle class and the rich men should be given such loans as would be commensurate with the amount of damage that has been caused so that they may rehabilitate themselves.

“ The most important thing is that the food production ought not to be decreased by any chance. While on this subject, I would like to suggest that it will be necessary for the Co-operative Department, Agricultural Department, Revenue Department, Food Department and Public Works Department to consult together and see in what manner they can prepare themselves to meet the situation when such emergencies arise. I am not sure that this is the only occasion when flood havoc has occurred. There can be no doubt that these havoCs will repeat themselves. Therefore, my plea with the Government is that they must consider this ‘ act of God ’ as a sort of pointer to the duties that they owe to the public at large, and when I say ‘ the public at large ’, I do not forget that this Legislature has taken the place of the King and that it is part of the Government themselves, and although the Members who belong to the Government party may forget themselves of that factor, I am not prepared to forget it and that this is an act of God on account of the sins committed by the King. I may tell my friend Mr. Govindacharyulu that he is one of the Kings who are responsible. I must, therefore, plead greatly with the Government to appoint immediately an Expert Committee to go into this whole question and as a long-range policy to suggest what measures are necessary to meet the situation.”

5 p.m.

* **SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM** :—“ అధ్యక్ష, ఇటీవల తటస్థించిన తుపాన విభత్సవల్ల క్రుంగిపోయిన జిల్లాలలో నేను ప్రతినిధిగా వచ్చిన తూర్పు గోదావరి జిల్లాకూడ ఒకటైయున్నది. వివిధ జిల్లాలలో ఎంతెంత నష్టం వాటిల్లినదో తెలియజేసే నిమిత్తం ప్రభుత్వంవారు ఈ తానన సభా సభ్యులకు ఇచ్చిన స్టేటుమెంటును గూర్చి కొన్ని సందేహములు ఉన్నవి. వాటిని మంత్రిగారికి తెలియజేస్తాను. వారు సమాధానము లిచ్చిన తరువాత మా జిల్లాలోని పరిస్థితులను గూర్చి మనవి చేసు కొంటాను. ప్రభుత్వంవారు ఇచ్చిన స్టేటుమెంటులో రాజోలు, కాకినాడ, పెద్దా

15th November 1949] [Sri T. Purushotham]

పురము, రామచంద్రాపురము, రాజమహేంద్రవరము, తుని, కొత్తపేట తాలూకాలలో జరిగిన నష్టం గురించిన వివరములు మాత్రమే ఉన్నవి. కాని ఇతర తాలూకాలో జరిగిన నష్టముయొక్క వివరములు తెలియజేయబడియుండలేదు. ఇందుకలన ఆ తాలూకాలో విమాతము నష్టము జరుగలేదనియో, లేక ఆ తాలూకా అధికారులనుంచి సంజాయిషీ రాకనా అనే విషయములగురించి ప్రభుత్వ అధికారము తెలియజేయ గోరుతాను.”

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—“నష్టముయొక్క వివరములు తెలియకనే.”

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—“అన్యథా, ఇటీవల గత మాసములో సంభవించిన తుపాను వీభత్సంవల్ల నష్టపోయిన జిల్లాలలో మా తూర్పు గోదావరి జిల్లా కూడ ఒకటని మీకు నేను చెప్పనక్కరలేదు. గత 10 సంవత్సరములలో మా జిల్లాలో 3 వర్షాయములు తుపాను వచ్చినది. కాని ఆ తుపాను లేవీయ జిల్లాలోని ప్రజలకు ఈ తుపానువల్ల కలిగినంత నష్టమును కలిగించలేదు. 60 సంవత్సరముల ఈ లోపల ఇంత భద్రతముతో ఇంత పెద్ద తుపాను రాలేదని చాలా వయసువచ్చినవారు చెప్పుచున్నారు. ఈ తుపాను వీభత్సంవల్ల విశాఖపట్నం, ఉభయ గోదావరి, కృష్ణా, గుంటూరు, నెల్లూరు జిల్లాలు మాత్రమే కాకుండ ఇతర జిల్లాలలోకూడ కొంత నష్టము కలిగిన మాట యిదార్థము. ఈ కోస్తా జిల్లాలలో ఈ తుపానుతోపాటు సముద్ర ప్రాంతములో పెద్ద ఉప్పనీటి కేటకము రమారమి అయిదు మైళ్లవరకు వచ్చి కొన్ని గ్రామములలోను పంటలను, పూరి యిళ్లను యావత్తునుకూడ పూర్తిగా నాశనం చేసిన విషయం ప్రభుత్వంవారికి తెలిసినదే. అయితే ఈ సందర్భంలో ఒక విషయంకొన్ని తూర్పు గోదావరి జిల్లాను గురించి చెప్పవలసియున్నది. మనము జమీందారీ రద్దు విషయంలో పితాపురం సంస్థానాన్ని రద్దు చేసినామేకాని తూర్పు గోదావరి జిల్లాలోని పితాపురము తాలూకాను మనము లీసీవేయలేదు. ఆ తాలూకా ఇప్పటికీ ఒక్కడనే యున్నది. అక్కడి ప్రజలు మన మద్రాసు ప్రభుత్వమునకే పన్నులు చెల్లించుచున్నారు. అక్కడ జిల్లాలోనున్న అధికారులు అవతలయున్న తుని తాలూకాలోను, ఇవతలయున్న కాకినాడ, రామచంద్రాపురం తాలూకాలలోను జరిగిన నష్టంగురించి తెలియజేసినారు. కాని నీటి మధ్య ఉన్న పితాపురము తాలూకాలో ఎంత నష్టము సంభవించినది ఇంతవరకు తెలియజేయబడలేదు. ఈ విషయమై జిల్లాలోని అధికారులు ప్రభుత్వంవారుకూడ సంజాయిషీ ఇవ్వవలసియున్నది. ప్రజలకు ఆపార నష్టము సంభవించి అనేక వేల ఎకరములలోని పంట సర్వ నాశనమైపోయి వేలాది బీద ప్రజల పూరి ఇళ్లు పడిపోయి ప్రజలు అల్లాడి పోతుంటే ఎంతెంత నష్టం కలిగిందో ప్రజల ఆగ్రహాల్నే మా ప్రభుత్వానికే తెలియజేయని ఉద్యోగస్థులు ప్రజా ప్రభుత్వం తరఫున పరిపాలన సాగిస్తున్నారంటే చాల విచారించ వలసిన విషయం. ఇట్టి అధికారుల చేతులలో ప్రజలకు ఎట్టి సదుపాయాలు సౌకర్యాలు సక్రమంగా సవ్యంగా జరుగుతాయో అనేటటువంటిది మనము ఆలోచించవలసియున్నది. ప్రభుత్వంవారు ప్రజలకు సహాయపడుతామని ఇచ్చిన హామీని ఈ ఉద్యోగస్థులు ఎంత సానుభూతితో నిర్వహిస్తారో తమ విధిని ఎంత సక్రమంగా నిర్వహిస్తారో మనము ఆలోచించుకొనవలసియున్నది. ఏమైనప్పటికీ ప్రభుత్వంవారు వారి అధికారులు శ్రద్ధ వహిస్తారని అమితంగా నష్టపడిన రైతాంగానికి అండగా నిలుస్తారని ఆశిస్తున్నాను.

“ఈ సందర్భములో నా స్వానుభవాన్ని పురస్కరించుకొని జిల్లాలోని వివిధ ప్రాంతాలలో కలిగిన కష్ట సమస్యలను గురించి చూచి చేస్తాను. మా జిల్లాలోని కోస్తానీచ ప్రాంతంలో కొద్దిరి తోటలు విస్తారంగా వున్నవి. ఈ తుపాను గాలివల్ల తోటలలో

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నూటికి 25 చెట్లకు పైగా పూర్తిగా నాశనం అయిపోయినవి. ఈ విధంగా కలిగిన నష్టం అంచనా వేయాలంటే చాలాకష్టం. సాధారణంగా ఒక ఎకరానికి 50 కొబ్బరి చెట్లు వుంటాయి. వీటిలో 8 నుంచి 12 చెట్లవరకుకూడ పడిపోయిన తోటలు అనేకమున్నవి. సాధారణంగా చెట్లకు అధమం వంద కాయలు చూచుకొన్నట్టుటికి ఎకరానికి 8 వందల కాయల చొప్పున నష్టం కనిపించుచున్నది. ఈ నాడు నూరు కొబ్బరికాయల ధర రూ 15 లు వున్నది. అనగా ఒక్కొక్క ఎకరమునకు సంవత్సరమునకు రూ 120 లు దండగ సంభవించినదన్నమాట. ఈ దండగ ఈ ఒక సంవత్సరమునకు మాత్రమేగాదు. కొబ్బరిచెట్టు పెరిగి కాయలు కాచుటకు పది వందలైండు సంవత్సరములు పట్టును. అనగా ఈ పది వందలైండు సంవత్సరముల కాలము లాను కొబ్బరి తోటల రైతులకు ఎకరమునకు 12 నుంచి 15 వందల వరకు నష్టము సంభవించినది. ఈ ప్రకారము అంచనా వేసి చూచినట్లయితే మా జిల్లాలో జరిగిన నష్టం లక్షలలో కాదు, కొన్ని కోట్ల వరకుకూడ పెరుగగలదు. విప్రభత్యము అయినప్పటికి కంత నష్టాన్నించి రైతును పూర్తిగా వుద్ధరించలేదు. ఇందుకు వివిధమైన సావకాశం కూడ వుండదు. కాని రైతు దేశానికి జీవకర్ర, ప్రభుత్వానికి జీవకర్ర, రాష్ట్రానికి జీవకర్ర. అటువంటి రైతు ఈ రోజున మా జిల్లాలో నిరాధారుడై నిరాహార్యుడై దిగులుగ వివిధమైన ఆదరణలకే చిన్న రైతునుంచి పెద్ద రైతు లాగాయితు ప్రభుత్వ సహాయానికై ఎదురు చూస్తున్నారు. ఇట్టి తరుణంలో చిన్న రైతుకు చేయవలసిన సహాయం చిన్న రైతుకు, పెద్ద రైతుకు కావలసిన సహాయం పెద్ద రైతుకు చేసి ప్రజాధారణ ప్రజావాదము పొందడం ప్రభుత్వంవారి విద్యుక్త ధర్మం. దేశానికి వెన్నెముక అయిన రైతుకు వెన్నె విరిగి కూలిపోతూనికి సిద్ధంగా ఉన్న సమయంలో ఆలస్యంచేయక, అతనిని ఆదరణనైనే దేశము ప్రజా శుభిష్టంగా, క్షేమంగా వుండటానికి అవకాశం వుంటుంది. అటువంటి ప్రభుత్వాన్ని యధార్థమైన ప్రజా ప్రభుత్వం అనటానికి ఎవ్వరు సందేహించరు.

“ఈ తుపానువల్ల మా కోస్తా జిల్లాలో ముఖ్యమైన ప్రథమ వరిపంట ఎంత దెబ్బతినినదో మిత్రులు నారాయణస్వామి నాయుడుగారు వారి ఉపన్యాసంలో తెలియజేసియున్నారు. వరిచేను రెండు రోజులు నీటిలో మునిగియుంటే ఎంత కష్టం కలుగుతుందో స్వానుభవము ఉన్న రైతుకు తెలుస్తుంది. వరిగింజ రెండు రోజులు నీళ్లలో ఉన్నట్లయితే మొక్క వస్తుంది. గడ్డి కల్గిపోతుంది. ఇప్పుడు ప్రథమపంట ముఖ్యముగా, బసంగి కంటే ఆసాధారణమైన అపారమైన దెబ్బతిన్నది. అనేక ప్రాంతాలలో కోసియున్న కోతకు సిద్ధమైయున్న బసంగి చేలు 7, 8 రోజుల వరకు నీటిలో మునిగిపోయి యుండవలసి వచ్చినది. మంచి కంటే పండవలసిన పాలము లలోకూడ ఇప్పుడు కూలివరకైనను ధాన్యము వచ్చుననే ఆశకూడలేదు. కొన్ని కోసియున్న చేలలోని సస్యము ప్రవాహంలో కొట్టుకొనిపోయి విటిపాలైంది. ఆఖరకు పశువులకుకూడ గడ్డిలేనిస్థితి ఈ నాడు అనేక గ్రామాలలో విర్రుడినది. నేను చెప్పే విషయాలలోని నిజా నిజములను మా జిల్లాలో మిత్రులు సంచారము చేసి నట్లయితే వారే తెలిసికొనగలరు. అంతేకాక మిత్రులు గోవిందాచార్యులు గారు చెప్పినట్లు గౌరవనీయులగు మిత్రులు కాఫీ పెంటలన్న తెరచుటకు, సినిమా భవన నిర్మాణాలకు శంఖుస్థాపన చేయుటకు వెళ్లటకు బదులు వారు తుపాను విభత్సంవల్ల ఆక్రందిస్తున్న ప్రజానీకాన్ని చూచుటకు ఆయా జిల్లాలకు పోయి ప్రజలకు ధైర్యం చెప్పే పూనుకోవడం అత్యంత అవసరమని మనవి చేస్తున్నాను.

“ఈ నాడు పంట పాడైపోయి ముందుగలి ఏమో అని ఆశించిస్తున్న రైతును నిలబెట్టటానికి ప్రభుత్వంలోని అన్ని శాఖలవారును కృషి నిశ్చయంతో పనిచేయాలి.

15th November 1949] [Sri T. Purushotham]

ముఖ్యంగా వ్యవసాయ డిపార్టుమెంటువారు వ్యవసాయదారు వెంటనే వ్యవసాయము కొనసాగించుకోవటానికి వీలైన అవకాశాలని కలుగజేయాలి. రెండవ పంట పండించు కోటానికి కావలసిన విత్తనాలను మిగులు జిల్లా లనుండి గాని, ఇతర రాష్ట్రాలనుండి గాని అవసరమైతే తాత్కాలికంగా ఈ డిపెంబరు మాసంలోనే డొడ్డుటానికి పనికివచ్చే చిన్న పంట విత్తనాలను తెప్పించి రైతుకు స్పష్టచేయవలసి యుండుంది. విత్తనాలే కాకుండా మంచినీటి పంట పండుటకు ముఖ్యవసరమైన ఎరువులనుకూడ వ్యవసాయ డిపార్టుమెంటువారు సప్లయ్ చేయవలసి యుండుంది. అంతేకాకుండా వ్యవసాయదారులకు అత్యవసరమైనటువంటి వ్యవసాయ పనిముట్లనుకూడా సరఫరా చేయించవలయును. ఇటువంటి సదుపాయముల నన్నింటిని వెంటనే చేయకపోయినట్లయితే వచ్చే సంవత్సరంలో మనమందరము మహా వికరీతమైన కాటకాన్ని ఎదుర్కొనవలసి ఎస్తుందనటానికి ఎంతమాత్రము సందేహములేదు. ఈతరుణం మనకు అందరకు కలిగి సమయం తుపానువల్ల నష్టపడిన రైతులకు సకాలంలో వడ్డీలేని పద్ధతిమీద అప్పులనిచ్చి, ధనసహాయముచేసి, ఇతర అవసర వస్తువులను supply చేసి, రైతులు తిరిగి వెంటనే వ్యవసాయం చేసుకొనుటకు ప్రోత్సహాన్ని కలుగ చేయవలసినదని ప్రభుత్వమువారిని కోరుచున్నాను.

“ప్రభుత్వమువారు రైతుకు ఏ విధంగా సహాయపడాలో ఆనే విషయమై నేను కొన్ని సలహాలను చేయదలచినాను. ఇప్పుడు రెవిన్యూ అప్పులను భూములన్నవారికే ఇవ్వవలె ననెట్టువంటి నిబంధన ఉన్నది. ఇటువంటి పరతు ఉండుటచేత స్వంత భూమి ఉన్నవారికేగాని స్వంతభూమి లేకుండా, కాలుకు భూమిని నేద్యము చేసుకొనెట్టువంటివారికి ఋణములను ఇచ్చే అవకాశములేదు. ముఖ్యంగా స్వంతభూమి లేకుండా, ఇతరుల భూములను నేద్యముచేసుకొంటున్న రైతులు చాలా బీదవారు. వారు ఈ సంవత్సరం కాలుకు చేసుకొనుచున్న భూములను వ్యవసాయము చేసుకొనుటకు ఆహ్వానం, సహా చేసుకొని కొంతపెట్టుబడి పెట్టి భూములను సాగుచేసినారు. కాని ఈ తుపానువల్ల వారి కృషి అంతయు నిష్ఫలమై పోయినది. తిరిగి వారు వ్యవసాయము చేసుకొనవలసిన పే పెట్టుబడికిగాను కొంత డబ్బు కావలసినస్తుంది. వారు ఇదివరకే అప్పులొబడి, దానిని తీర్చుకొనుటకు అవకాశము లేకుండా ఉన్నారు. అటువంటివారు తిరిగి ఇప్పుడు ఇతరులవద్దనుంచి అప్పు తెచ్చుకోవడం కష్టము. వారికి అప్పు పుట్టడంకూడా చాలా కష్టము. ఇటువంటి పేదరైతులకు అప్పు ఇవ్వడం చాలా అవసరము, లేనిచో వారు రెండవ పంట పండించుకోలేరు. కాబట్టి ఇటువంటి వికరీత పరిస్థితులలో భూమిలేని రైతులకుకూడా పెర్మనెంట్ హామీమీద, తక్కువ అప్పులు ఉచ్చుటకు వున్న ఆర్డంకుల నన్నింటిని తొలగించవలసినదని ప్రభుత్వమువారిని కోరుచున్నాను.

“మాజిల్లాలో సముద్రప్రాంతములో ఉన్నటువంటి అమలాపురం, రాజోలు, కాకినాడ తాలూకాలలోని సముద్రతీర ప్రదేశములు ఉప్పునీటి కెరటమువలన తీరమునుంచి అయిదు మైళ్లవరకుఉన్న భూములన్నియు మునిగిపోయినవి. భూములలో ఉప్పునీరు నీలవడం ఉండుటవలన ఆవస్థ యు చొడువేసిపోయినవి. ఈచొడు పోలేనేకాని ఈ భూములలో తిరిగి ఏ వైరులవైనను నేద్యము చేయలేము. ముఖ్యంగా వచ్చే రెండో పంట పండించడం సాధ్యంకాదు. కాబట్టి ఈ చొడును కడిగివేయటముగాను ఈ భూములకు వెంటనే తీసిగీటిని ఇప్పించాలి. ఇది అత్యంత అవసరము, లేనిచో అనేక వేల ఎకరాల భూమి పాడైపోతుంది. ఈ ఆహార కొరత విర్బడిన రోజులలో అనేక వేల టన్నుల బియ్యము ప్రజలకు దొరకకుండాపోతుంది. కాబట్టి యీ విషయాన్ని ప్రభుత్వమువారు శ్రద్ధగా ఆలోచించి వెంటనే ఈ భూములకు తీసిగీటిని ఇప్పించవలసినదని

[Sri T. Purushotham] [15th November 1949]

మరల ఇంకొక సారి ప్రభుత్వంవారికి చునవిచేస్తున్నాను ఇంతేకాకుండా ఈ సముద్ర తీరప్రాంతములలో చేపలుపట్టుకొని జీవింపేటటువంటి పల్లెవాళ్లకు చాలానష్టం సంభవించినది. వాళ్లు ఇండ్లు, పడవలు, వలలు మొదలైనవి సముద్రము పొంగుటవలన కొట్టుకొని పోయినవి. అనేకమంది పల్లెవాళ్లు ప్రాణాన్ని రక్షించుకోవడానికి చెట్టుకొకడు, పుట్టుకొకడుగా పరుగెత్తుకొని పోవలసిన స్థితి వచ్చినది. వారిలో కొంతమంది ఇంతవరకు కూడా కనిపించుటలేదు. ఎంతమంది చనిపోయినారో కూడా తెలుసుకోవడం కష్టంగా ఉన్నది. ఈ పల్లెవాళ్లకు ఉండటానికి గుడిసెగాని, ఈ చలికాలంలో కప్పుకోడానికి గుడ్డగాని, తినడానికి ఆన్నముకాని, ఇంకా ఏ ఇతర సామానులుకాని లేకుండా పోయినవి. ముఖ్యంగా వారి జీవనాధారమైనటువంటి పడవలు, తెడ్లు, వలలు పోయినవి. వారు మరల యథాప్రకారంగా చేపలు పట్టుకొని జీవించటానికిగాను ప్రభుత్వంవారు వారికి వెంటనే వలలు అల్లుకోటానికి నూలు, పడవలు కట్టుకోడానికి, కలప వారికి ఇప్పించడం అత్యవసరం. కాబట్టి ఈ విషయాన్ని కూడా ప్రభుత్వంవారు దయతో ఆలోచించవలసినదిగా కోరుచున్నాను.

“అంతేకాకుండా సముద్రతీరానికి దూరంగా ఉన్నటువంటి ప్రదేశములలో నదుల వరదలవల్ల తుపానువల్ల భూములన్నియు పూర్తిగా మునిగిపోయినవి. ముఖ్యంగా బసంగి పంటచేలు చాలా దెబ్బతిన్నవి. చేలు చాలారోజులవరకు నీటిలో ఉండుట వలన గింజలు పాడైపోయినవి. గడ్డి కుళ్లిపోయినది. అంతేకాకుండా ఇతర పెద్ద పంట వరిచేలుకూడా వర్షమువలన, గాలివలన గడ్డి దెబ్బ తిన్నవి పున్నాసరంరాలి పోయినది. వరిచెలలో పొల్లే హెచ్చుగా ఉంటుంది. చేలు కోసి కూర్చినట్లే ఇది వరకు ఎకరానికి 20 బస్తాలు ఆయే భూములలో ఇప్పుడు రెండు బస్తాలుకూడా పండవు.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ మీ సూచనలను చెప్పండి ”

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—“ ముఖ్యంగా ప్రభుత్వంవారు డెల్టా ప్రాంతాలలో విశేషంగా నష్టపడినటువంటి రైతులు ఈ సంవత్సరం రెండో పంట పండించటానికి నీరు ఇప్పించాలను. ఈ విషయాన్ని గౌరవనీయులగు రెవెన్యూ శాఖా మాత్యులు శ్రీ సీలారామ రెడ్డిగారితో మనవి చేసినాను. ఈ విషయాన్ని వారు గౌ. భక్తవత్సలం గారుకూడా పరిశీలించవలసినదిగా కోరుచున్నాను. రెండవ పంటకు నీటిని supply చేసే విషయంలో ఇప్పుడు zonal system అనే విభాగము అమలులో ఉన్నది. దీనినిబట్టి ఒక్కొక్క గ్రామములో కొంతభాగమునకు మాత్రమే రెండవ పంటకు నీరు ఇస్తున్నారు. ఈ rotational crop system వలన ఒక సంవత్సరం కొంత భూమిలోను మరొక సంవత్సరం మరొక కొంత భాగంలోను రెండవ పంట పండిస్తున్నారు. అంతేకాకుండా మా తాలూకాలలో కొన్ని excluded area లు కూడా ఉన్నవి. ఇటువంటి భూములకు రెండవ పంట పండించుకొనుటకు నీరు ఇవ్వరు. ఈ భూములు zonal system లో నుంచి మినహాయించబడినవి. కాబట్టి జిల్లాలలో ఉండే Executive Engineer లు, జిల్లా కలెక్టర్లు zonal system మీదే ఆధారపడక ఎంత ఎక్కువ భూమిలో రెండో పంట పండించుటకు వీలు కలుగుతుందో అంత భూమిలోను పైరులను సాగు చేయుటకు వీలు కలుగజేయనట్లుగా ఉత్తరువులు జారీచేయించగోర్తాను. తాత్కాలికంగా zonal system నుకూడా suspend చేయవలసినదిగా రెవెన్యూ శాఖా మాత్యులకు మనవి చేస్తున్నాను.

“ ఈ సంవత్సరం పంటలు పూర్తిగాపోయిన కారణంచేత, పెద్ద రైతులు, చిన్న రైతులు వారికి ఉన్న ఆస్తులను తీర్చలేరు. కాబట్టి రైతులు భూమి తనఖా బాంకుకు, ఇతర సంస్థలకు ఇవ్వవలసిన ఆస్తులయొక్క ఈ సంవత్సరపు instalment లు చెల్లించ

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వలసిన కాలము పొడగించేట్లు చేయడం అత్యవసరం. అందుకుగాను గవర్నమెంటు వారు మారిటోరియమ్ ఇన్ఫ్లెంజ్ గోర్తాను. ఈ విషయాన్ని పరిశీలన చేయించి తగిన ఉత్తరువులు వెంటనే జారీ చేయించవలసినదిగా సహకారశాఖా మాత్యులగు గౌ. చంద్రమౌళిగారిని నేను కోరుచున్నాను.

“ఈ సందర్భంలో ఒక్క ముఖ్యమైన విషయాన్ని మనవిచేస్తాను. తుపాను సంభవించిన తరువాత మా జిల్లాలలో ఆపారమైన నష్టము సంభవించినదని ప్రతికలలో ప్రకటించిన వార్తలు exaggerate చేయబడినవని ప్రధాన మంత్రిగారు నెలవెచ్చినట్లు ప్రతికలలో చూచినాము. ఇది చాలా విచారించవలసినటువంటి విషయము. ఇది వరికు పరాయి ప్రభుత్వం ఉన్నప్పుడు ప్రజాపరిధిగాకు వివిధ సమాధానం సంజాయిషీ చెప్పవలసి ఉంటుందో అనే భయంతో వారు ప్రజాభిప్రాయానికి ప్రతికాభిప్రాయానికి తలవొగ్గుతూ ఉండేవారు. కాని ప్రజాప్రభుత్వం వచ్చిన తరువాత ఈ భయం పూర్తిగా తొలగిపోయినట్లున్నది. ఈ ప్రభుత్వంవారికి తమ ఉద్యోగస్థుల రిపోర్టులే కాని ఇతర non-officials యొక్క సలహాలు ఎంతమాత్రము చెవికెక్కవు. ఉద్యోగస్థులు చెప్పినదానిపైననే వారికి నమ్మకము. ఇవివరలో పరాయి ప్రభుత్వము ఉన్నప్పుడు మనమందరము ఆ ప్రభుత్వము ప్రజాభిప్రాయానికి విలస ఇవ్వటంలేదని వారి ఉద్యోగస్థులు ప్రజల ఎడల నిర్దాక్షిణ్యంగా ఉన్నారని వాని విమర్శించాము. ఇట్టి విమర్శకు ఈనాడు అవకాశం లేకుండాపోయింది. ఈనాడు జిల్లాలలో ఉన్న ఉద్యోగస్థులు పాత పద్ధతులనే ఆవలంబించుచున్నారు. 150 సంవత్సరముల కాలము నుంచి వారు ఈ పరిపాలనా విధానానికి ఆలవాటైపోయినారు. ఒక్కసారిగా వారిలో మార్పురావడం సాధ్యంగాదు. కాబట్టి ప్రజాభిప్రాయానికి కూడ మన ప్రభుత్వంవారు విలస ఇవ్వడం అత్యవసరం.

“ముఖ్యంగా రెండవ పంట పండించుటకు నీరు కప్పించడం, రైతుకు వ్యవసాయం చేసేకొనుటకు కావసిన ఇతర సౌకర్యములను కలుగచేయడం వెంటనే ప్రభుత్వంవారు చర్య తీసుకొనవలయును.

“ఈనాడు వ్యవసాయ కూలీల పరిస్థితి చాల అధ్వాన్నముగ నున్నది. తినుటకు తిండిలేక వారు మలమల మాడిపోతున్నారు. ఈ చరిత్రలలో ఒంటిని కప్పకోటానికి అవసరమైన గడ్డ లభ్యం కావటం లేదు. కాబట్టి వారందరికీ రేషన్లు, బట్టలు ఉచితంగానైనా లేక సరిసమైన ధరలకైనా ఇప్పించే ఏర్పాట్లు చేయించగోరుతాను. అవసరమైతట్లయితే ఈ ఖర్చులను చేయవలసినదిగాను రెండు మూడు కోట్ల రూపాయలను రెవెన్యూ రిజర్వు ఫండులోనుంచి అయినను తీసి వెచ్చించుటకు ప్రభుత్వం వెనుక ముందాడవలసిన అవసరంలేదు. ఈ విషయమై సంచేపించుకర్త Finance Minister గారిని కోరుచున్నాను. ఈ రెవెన్యూ రిజర్వు ఫండు అసాధారణ ప్రమాదములు సంభవించినప్పుడు ప్రజానీకాన్ని కాపాడటానికై ఉపయోగపడడంలో విమోతం తప్పలేదు. ఇటువంటి పరిస్థితులలో వెచ్చించుటకే ఇటువంటి నిధులు ఏర్పాటు చేయబడినవి. అవసరమైతట్లయితే ఆ డబ్బులోనుంచి రెండు, మూడు కోట్ల రూపాయలనైనా తీసి ఖర్చు పెట్టవలసిందని కోరుతూ నెలపు తీసుకొంటున్నాను.”

* SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—“ Mr. President, Sir, coming as I do from the Cuddapah district, which is one of the districts affected by the recent cyclone, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all the hon. Members of this House who have profusely expressed their sympathy. But, at the same time, I would like to mention that this sympathy should be translated into action. It is no doubt true that Members of this House in the Opposition

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might disassociate themselves from this in the sense that they have nothing to do and it is the duty of the Government. But, as this is a national calamity—as the hon. Members have themselves said, people need not divide themselves as belonging to one part which has not suffered by this calamity and another part which has suffered by this calamity, and no distinction of caste or creed ought to be made. I am really grateful for the noble sentiments that have been expressed by the hon. Members. Then, Sir, I would like to impress upon the House that it is not only in a national calamity like this that no distinction ought to be made, but even in normal occasions these distinctions ought to be abolished. While, I say this, I would like to emphasise that the whole of the Presidency is not the same so far as material prosperity is concerned. There are poor tracts, there are backward tracts and there are rich tracts.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ May I request the hon. Member to confine his remarks to the damage caused by cyclone and suggestions to the Government how to improve the conditions. All these points are no doubt important and may be good and relevant to other occasions rather than the present one, discussion of cyclone. I would very much like the hon. Member to confine his remarks to the damage caused in Cuddapah and suggestions to the Government how to alleviate them.”

* SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—“ Sir, I say that these points have a bearing on the present discussion. For instance, the communications had been disrupted in the Cuddapah district. It takes a long time to repair this damage. I know the Government are going to impose certain conditions on the Cuddapah District Board or the local bodies. I say that the people of the district are poor and they cannot bear any huge expenditure. I lay emphasis on this aspect and want the Government to take up the work entirely by themselves and repair the damages whatever may be cost. It is in this light I wanted to say that no distinction ought to be made with regard to normal times also and urgent measures are to be taken up for the welfare of the people. I submit, Sir, that a note has been prepared by the Government for the information of the Members which lays special stress on the fact that some damage has been caused to some of the roads. As far as the roads are concerned, the Development Commissioner for Rayalaseema who has been appointed by the Government has prepared a report. In this report, it is stated that it is difficult to construct good roads in Cuddapah and to maintain the same. The Pennar Causeway has been damaged to a great extent beyond all repair and any repair that is contemplated by the Government would only be a patchwork. The Divisional Engineer also has visited the place. Subsequently on account of the cyclone this causeway has been damaged further and it is irreparable. I say that this is the proper time to completely replace this causeway by a permanent bridge. I have been suggesting this and the Collector has been suggesting this and the people have also been suggesting this. But somehow, the present Government as well as the previous

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Government have turned a deaf ear to this suggestion and have not undertaken the work of constructing a bridge over the Pennar river. I submit that whatever money that is spent at present over the repair of the Pennar Causeway will be useless. There is some scheme which says that the bridge will be constructed somewhere between 1951 and 1956. But this does not prevent the Government from advancing the scheme and taking up this work immediately. This is the proper time and I request the Government to take up this scheme immediately and construct the bridge.

“ So far as the roads are concerned, I may submit that the roads that are passing through the Cuddapah district are few and far between. As I have already said, it is difficult to make good roads in the black cotton soil and to maintain them. There are very few good roads in the Cuddapah and Kurnool districts. Recently, I was travelling in a car in the trunk road in the Cuddapah district. The road was in such a damaged condition that my car was very badly hit and I could not proceed further. I am mentioning this only for the purpose of showing that even the road that is called trunk road is in such a bad condition and want to urge that the roads in the district are not at all motorable. Therefore I request the Government to take up this work immediately and see that the roads are put in a proper condition, whatever be the amount that is necessary for this purpose.

“ With regard to irrigation channels, no doubt the Government have done something and I am really grateful to the Government. On another occasion in the Provincial Food Advisory Committee, I made a remark that the Government were very slow in tackling this question. I would like to express my apology for making that remark. No doubt, it is true that the Government have done something to which I am really grateful. But there are many more things that ought to be done. For instance, take the case of the Gurrampad Channel. People dependent on this channel cultivated their lands and expected that the crops might grow well and they would have a good harvest. Subsequently, on account of breaches, the crops withered and the thing that the people hoped did not come to fruition. I request the Hon. Minister for Public Works to see that the damage caused to this channel is repaired immediately whatever might be the cost. I completely associate myself with the suggestions made by my friend Mr. Narayanaswami Naidu and would say that the peasants have been suffering very much and the Government ought to do whatever lies in their power to help these poor peasants.”

* SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—“ Mr. President, Sir, I rise to observe that this is a national calamity which calls for immediate action and if neglected it may lead to a national crisis in the matter of food as the area affected is a food growing one and it is twice hit by cyclones. There are people who have lost their all, food-stuffs, cattle and crops. There are villages which were most unexpectedly flooded by rivers like Krishna, Tungabhadra, Elleru, Kunderu, Hunderu, Penneru and a host of others. The floods overtook the people so suddenly that they have lost all their property including

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food-stuffs. The relief given by Government to these people by way of cash grants of rupees five and ten is not relief at all. Of course, loans are given up to Rs. 500 per head or per family in Kurnool district. Here again, the grant is quite inadequate. For example, a bull in Kurnool costs not less than Rs. 400, and people here have lost nearly two-thirds of their cattle wealth. In these circumstances, I do not know how it is possible to repair their losses and rehabilitate them. The rivers passing through the villages like Madugula, Sangameswaram, Beeruvolu and others have over-flowed and destroyed huge property. People here were marooned and they had to be removed from the small 'islands' with the help of basket boats. Sir, the plight of the weavers in my district is almost very pitiable. In these days the weavers are economically very bad and are having only a hand-to-mouth existence. Their only property are the houses they dwell in and most of these houses have collapsed and come down. The ordinary ryot who has at least something to fall back upon can withstand such a loss and can reconstruct another dwelling place for him with the help of the implements and other materials he possesses. But these weavers are of little or no means and have nothing to fall back upon in the event of a such a calamity. Hence their condition is worse than others' and they must be afforded greater relief. After all, it is these people that supply cloth for the country and therefore deserve to be treated better in the matter of relief. Now I shall turn to the roads that were damaged by the cyclone. My friend Mr. Ranga Reddi has already said that many roads have been seriously damaged, Sir, these call for immediate repairs as on their proper upkeep to an extent depends our food production. Besides, many distributory channels have also been damaged which also have to be repaired at once. Sir, it will be seen that the damage caused by the cyclone is very great. Our Premier perhaps thought in the beginning that the reports about the cyclone havoc were grossly exaggerated. But I am sure by now he would have revised his opinion, having seen the reports submitted by the District Collectors and the Board of Revenue as they are nothing but tales of woe. I am sorry, Sir, that no Minister has so far visited the affected areas in Kurnool to see how relief work is being done. I think a visit by the Hon. Ministers will expedite relief measures. I hope at least now some of them will visit the districts affected by the cyclone and see what relief is given, what more is needed, and in what manner that relief should be efforded."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Is the hon. Member Dr. John making a speech on his amendment? "

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" No, Sir. I shall only read the amendment—

' and on such consideration this Council resolves that this Council recommends to the Government that the Government be pleased to spend as much as is necessary and as much as is possible for giving immediate relief to those who have suffered by the cyclone.'

Sir, I am emphasising the words ' spend ' and ' immediate '. The Government must spend the amount and relief must be immediate and not delayed."

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* THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—“ Mr. President, Sir, let me at the outset express my thanks to the various hon. Members for the many constructive suggestions that they gave and also for the information that they tried to give to the Government in addition to what was already furnished in my statement yesterday. I must make it clear, Sir, that what has been furnished already was what we had at the time we went to the Press, and certain reports are likely to have been received subsequently. So, it need not be taken that if certain places or certain areas have not been mentioned, it is not as though no damage has taken place in those parts. If there had been any damages anywhere, the local officers who have been asked to tour those places will certainly take note of them and send a report to Government. Let me, therefore, assure this House that the Government are as anxious as hon. Members here are, to see, that redress of distress is done speedily and effectively. We believe only in speedy and effective relief. I need not therefore reiterate what we have already done in the matter of relief. In fact, my statement covers all this in detail, and I thought by moving this motion I could clear the minds of the hon. Members about the urgency with which Government acted in this matter. Sir, let me now recount what we did as soon as the news of the cyclone was received. I personally tried to contact the Collectors in the various districts by telephone but unfortunately, as I have already stated, telegraphic and telephonic communications were interrupted and we could get into touch with them by wireless alone. It took nearly two to three days, I remember, to restore the communications throughout the districts affected. So, there was some delay naturally in getting information. As you are aware, Sir, the cyclone hit the districts on the 27th and the 28th of last month. Today is the 15th of November and the statement I furnished was based on information received on and up to the 10th of this month. It is possible that the information was not full or complete; but as I have assured you, Sir, we have been trying to contact every District Collector and get all the information. So, no member need feel that if there is any omission in the mention of places damaged, Government will not take care of that area. There has been another criticism, Sir, that Ministers have not rushed to the places affected by the cyclone. May I remind hon. Members that two of the Ministers did go and visit the affected areas? They are the Hon. Mr. Chandramouli and the Hon. Mr. Parameswaran. For my part, Sir, I personally felt that by expediting the orders sanctioning relief from here, I could render better service to the victims than by visiting the places. (An hon. Member : ‘ The Hon. Mr. Chandramouli visited the Guntur district.’) Yes, Sir, Guntur also was one of the affected districts. I also felt, Sir, that it would be better if I sent the Members of the Board of Revenue to tour the places as they are all experienced officers who have had occasions before to deal with such disasters and who would be in a position to issue orders on the spot to the local officers to provide immediate relief to the poor victims. Sir, it is with this end in view that I asked the four Members of the Board of Revenue to visit and inspect the affected areas and it was not as though the

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Government were indifferent about the calamity. I should certainly like to deny the charge that has been sought to be made that the Ministers are indifferent. On the other hand, I may tell hon. Members, the Government have been very very anxious about the situation in those districts and as I have already said, I had to spend anxious days even to get information by wireless. Also I was keeping in touch with the various departments that were attending to relief work—the Public Works Department, the Public Health Department and the Revenue Department.

" Sir, some members have said that the cash grants sanctioned are very small, and asked how it was possible with such small sums to meet such a grave situation. I should like to tell hon. Members that the amount that was sanctioned was only for immediate relief, to enable the people to buy for example, some rice or some palmyra leaves for raising huts or the like. The question of giving them substantial relief is always there. Besides, there is the question of remission which will also be taken up for examination. So, let there not be any feeling in the minds of hon. Members that the amount sanctioned is very small compared to the magnitude of the calamity.

" The Leader of the Opposition suggested that the Government could have very well constituted a permanent fund to meet situations like this. Sir, I would like to invite hon. Members' attention to the fact that there is what is called the Famine Relief Fund and under that Fund we have got today 88.44 lakhs of rupees. This amount is intended to be spent only whenever there is necessity for it, i.e., if there was a famine upon the land or a cyclone. So the idea of having necessary funds in reserve in such emergencies has already been taken note of by the Government of the day as well as the previous Governments. In fact there had been an Amending Act in 1938 to the Madras Famine Relief Act of 1936.

" Sir, there has been another suggestion made about the remission of land revenue. It has been suggested that the Government should be very liberal in ordering remissions. Sir, I should thank Dr. A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar for the correct lead that he gave in the matter. It is not a question of just granting remissions because somebody shouts the loudest. There is what is called the Ajmash. We have asked the Collectors and the Revenue Divisional Officers to assess the extent of damages. There are also the revenue rules to grant remissions in such cases. In addition to all these, as I have already made clear in my statement, Government want to be liberal in this matter because they realize the magnitude of the sufferings of the people and let me assure you once again, Sir, that the Government intend to be very very liberal in all deserving cases. I may also tell Dr. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar that because somebody shouts, we are not going to be cowed down and made to yield to him. Relief will be given on a scientific basis as has been done previously and will be based upon real needs of the people and the extent of their losses.

" Sir, there was another complaint, if I may say so, by hon. Members that the interest free loans of Rs. 500 will not be sufficient and at least it must be made Rs. 1,000. The Members of the Board of Revenue had consultations with the District Collectors

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in this matter and after touring the affected areas extensively made this recommendation which Government have accepted. But if there is any need in any particular case for enhancing these interest-free loans, I can assure hon. Members that it will be examined with sympathy."

AN HON. MEMBER :—" What about interest-free loans for the landless people? "

* THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" The Government are giving such loans only by way of help to the people who have been adversely affected by the cyclone. The suggestion that interest-free loans should be given to a particular class will have to be examined and it is a question about which I cannot give any assurance because Government money is public money and when public money is utilized, it must be done on a proper and reasonable basis for Government owe a duty to the public. They owe a duty to the entire public as the money to the Government comes from the public. We must use the Government resources in a way that will ensure its return. If it is called a loan, we must see that we ensure conditions which will enable us to collect the loan. That is why I cannot give an assurance about these kinds of loans. 5-45 p.m.

" Then several hon. Members stressed the need for repairing irrigation sources. They also said that the repairs must be taken up speedily. As I have already said, my Hon. Colleague the Minister for Public Works, has already taken up the matter and instructed the Public Works Department to speed up the repairs to all tanks whether they are in the zamindari areas or non-zamindari areas. There should be no distinction, not even waiting, to consult even the zamindars about these repairs. We have instructed that the first thing to be done was to repair the tanks and the question of who is to bear the cost, etc., should be examined later. We feel that unless these tanks and irrigation sources and channels are immediately repaired, the food position of the entire Province is bound to suffer.

" Then the question has been raised about supply of water for the second crop. Even on that question we have instructed the Public Works Department to give highest priority and make water available for the second crop in the cyclone affected areas. Hon. Member Mr. Purushotham made some suggestions about certain policies that have already been decided upon and that they may stand in the way of giving water for the second crop in certain areas, certain blocks and certain zones, and all that. I have not examined all the aspects of it. I can only tell him that if it is not an obstacle and does not mean any loss to any other *Ayacutdar* who is entitled to that water, there is no difficulty in accepting the suggestion. But if it involved the infringement of the rights of other people who are entitled to irrigation, it would be difficult because we cannot deprive another man of his rights. I can only assure the House that the Government will not spare any pains to see that as much of water as possible is supplied for the cultivation of the second crop.

" Then there was certain criticism made that food was not available. I think . . . "

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MR. PRESIDENT :—“ Certain amendments were given. The Hon. Minister may deal with them.”

* THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—“ I shall deal with them presently, Sir. Certain criticism was made that food was not available in the affected areas. I have got a note from the Food Department which gives the stocks of rice on hand in the various districts, available with the Government procuring agents including millers as on 5th November 1949. In Visakhapatnam, the stock was 6,262 tons. The weekly off-take was 875 and the stock would last for seven weeks. In East Godavari the stock was 6,111 tons which would last for six weeks at the rate of 997 tons of off-take every week. In West Godavari the stock was 7,194 tons. The weekly off-take was 846 tons and the stock would last for eight weeks. In Krishna the stock was 4,861 tons which would last for four weeks, the weekly off-take being 1,193 tons. In Guntur the stock was 6,874 tons. The weekly off-take was 1,188 tons and the stock would last for five weeks. In Nellore the stock was 4,612 tons which would last for 16 weeks, the weekly off-take being 274 tons. I am bringing this to the notice of the House as there is a feeling that there is no adequate stock of rice. Most probably, Sir, the difficulty has been that the matter of distribution has not been properly tackled. I have this morning, when this was brought to my notice, instructed the Secretary, Food Department, to contact the Collectors of all these districts by telephone and to instruct them to see that this complaint about non-availability of rice in some areas is removed immediately. He tried to get them over the phone but could not do so. Urgent messages have therefore been sent. I hope, Sir, this difficulty would have been removed by this time or very shortly; in a couple of days or at the most in three days.

“ Then, Sir, it was asked whether the Government have got any figure on the extent of damage and all that. As I have already said it could not be collected within a week that we have had. The figures will certainly be collected. As I have already said, necessary special staff will go and then assess the amount of damage, the area damaged and then the question of what remission can be given and what other help should be given, will all be taken up. The area affected is very vast and naturally it will take some time before we can assess properly the damage done.

“ Hon. Member, Mr. Narayanaswami Naidu, in his first amendment has suggested that the Hon. Minister for Public Works should give an assurance about the Budameru project. I am sure, Sir, he won't press this amendment because the Government, as has already been made clear by the Hon. the Minister for Public Works, have a scheme ready for that. But I believe, it was put off on the ground of Ramapadasagar project coming or on some other ground. But, Sir, in view of this cyclone and in the light of the views expressed by the Hon. Members of this House, this will certainly be examined and done—so much for the Budameru which is called the villain of the piece.

“ Then, Sir, the other question is crop insurance and state-aided corporation. Sir, I have got the fullest sympathy for this idea. In this country the greatest handicap for the agriculturist

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has been the lack of crop insurance and also cattle insurance. It is a desirable and urgent reform, I concede. But I am sure the hon. Member would agree with me that at the present moment as we are situated and as things are, this problem cannot be immediately tackled because of the vast areas in which this crop insurance has to be worked and also the disbursal of the cattle in a large area. These have to be taken up. But, Sir, at present, I can only express the greatest sympathy and agreement about the idea.

“ Now, about the amendment suggested in (c), viz., that all ryots whose holdings were submerged with water flowing over the head of the paddy crop for at least two days, be given interest-free loans at the rate of Rs. 100 per acre repayable in yearly instalments by not less than five years and other ryots, whose holdings were partially submerged, be given remission of rent or revenue, I cannot give an assurance that everything that has been suggested there could be done. We have already stated that the question of remission would be examined. Now, I am sorry, I cannot accept this suggestion of giving Rs. 100 per acre because I do not know the vast amount that may be required. It must also depend on the capacity of the Government to do that. I can only assure this, that so far as the loans are concerned, as I have already said in regard to these interest-free loans, instead of Rs. 500, if there are cases where there are special considerations, they will be examined. Then, Sir, this state-aided flood damage corporation. As I have already said, there is under the Famine Relief, a fund. The amount is there and so I do not think, Sir, there is need for pressing this amendment. And then lastly it is suggested that the procurement or export of paddy or rice from the Circars be immediately stopped till the next crop. Sir, we hear the hon. Member coming from West Godavari, Mr. Narayana Rao telling that even this year after the second crop a lakh of tons would be available for procurement. So, Sir, the procurement will certainly depend on the availability and our officers will be instructed by the Food Department to see that there is no harassment in the matter of procurement and nobody who is unable to surrender or give, is harassed. But it will be difficult for me to say that till the next crop there should be no procurement. There is another aspect of it, Sir, that has to be taken into consideration. If there is plenty available, the ryot himself would be anxious to dispose of the paddy that he has got.”

AN HON. MEMBER :—“ Fair prices.”

* THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—“ We are paying fair prices. I am sure, Sir, these amendments would not be pressed. Then, Sir, about the amendment of the Leader of the Opposition that ‘ on such consideration this Council resolves that this Council recommends to the Government that the Government be pleased to spend as much as is necessary and as much as is possible for giving immediate relief to those who have suffered by the cyclone ’, we will spend as much as is necessary and as far as possible. I can give him that assurance. I am sure the hon. Members will withdraw their amendments that they have moved.”

AN HON. MEMBER :—“ Withdrawn.”

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MR. PRESIDENT :—" You are prudent in withdrawing seeing the empty benches on the back."

* THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" It was very properly said by Dr. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar that the havoc caused by the cyclone was not the loss of one area, but a national loss. I am glad that hon. Members of this House have expressed the same sentiment. May I hope that everybody in the Province will view it as a national calamity and come forward to help in the rehabilitation of those who have suffered and so far as the Government . . ."

AN HON. MEMBER :—" Sri R. K. Patil was here and may we have particulars of what his views were."

* THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" I do not look into some other peoples' mind. I have had no discussion with him on this matter. I cannot answer for Mr. R. K. Patil because you see, Sir, he came on a specific purpose. I do not want to go into the matter and I do not think any particular purpose would be served in going into the matter. Sir, I would again like to emphasize the national loss and how it is very necessary for every area of the Madras Presidency to see that those people who suffered in that area are quickly rehabilitated and there is less discontent. I fully associate the Government with the idea and I expect that everybody would certainly co-operate in making the work of relief as successful as possible. It is not merely a question of monetary contribution but willing and sincere service that is important. Money will be collected. How best it could be collected and how best it must be utilized for the purpose of these people really deserve attention. It should not be wasted. I am sure, Sir, and I hope, when the question of relief and contribution comes, everybody from the Presidency would respond."

" It is proposed to call a Sheriff's meeting on the 24th or 25th of this month to appeal for relief and constitute a committee. I believe it would be then decided as to the name of the fund, where it must come from, and how it is to be done, etc. Sir, let me once again thank the members of the House for the very constructive and helpful suggestions that they have made and I am sure, Sir, that not only the Government but the people of the area who have suffered this loss will be grateful to the members who have expressed their sympathy in their sufferings."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Amendments are either withdrawn or are not pressed. The motion is talked out. The House will now adjourn and meet on the 17th."

The House adjourned.